

## **Remarks**

### **I. Status of the Application and Claims**

As originally filed, the present application had 8 claims. These were cancelled in a Preliminary Amendment and replaced with claims 9-28. In the present response, claims, 10, 18 and 26 have been cancelled. Thus, the claims now pending are claims 9, 11-17, 19-25, 27 and 28.

### **II. The Amendments**

Independent claims 9, 17 and 22 were amended to specify the characteristics of the crude gas undergoing purification. Support for these amendments may be found in the claims as originally filed. The remaining claims were amended to maintain consistency. None of the amendments add new matter to the application and their entry is therefore respectfully requested.

## **The Rejections**

### **Rejection of Claims Under 35 USC §112, First Paragraph**

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph based upon the allegation that Applicants amended claims in such a way as to constitute new matter. More specifically the Examiner alleges that Applicants original claims required that crude gas have a content of greater than 80 volume percent H<sub>2</sub>S and 100-2000 vpm (especially 400-1500 vpm) polysulfanes and that, by eliminating this requirement, Applicants have introduced new matter.

Although Applicants do not entirely agree with the Examiner, in the interest of advancing prosecution of this application, they have reintroduced the requirements of the crude gas recited in the Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection has been overcome.

## **Conclusion**

In light of the considerations above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the Examiner's rejections have been overcome. It is therefore requested that these rejections be withdrawn and that the claims presently pending in the application be allowed.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a phone call may help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (240)683-6165.

Respectfully submitted,

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